

# The Burke County News.

Published Every Friday

—BY—

T. G. COBB, - ED. & PUB.

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## THE BURKE COUNTY NEWS.

We here present you with a copy of the initial number of THE BURKE COUNTY NEWS, with a hearty New Year greeting and the hope that the venture may meet with your approval and support.

As its name indicates, the main aim of the paper will be to print all the news of Burke county. In the meantime the news of the surrounding counties and the more important news of the State and nation will not be neglected. We shall endeavor to furnish, also, select articles on topics of general interest, short stories and reading matter pertaining to the farm and household.

But we shall not make too many promises; the paper will speak for itself. We shall, however, strive to make it worth the subscription price, and as newspaper salutarities generally run, "we are here to stay",—Providence permitting, of course.

As for politics, the editor voted and worked for the Democratic ticket in November,—in fact, he has never voted any other way. Enough said on that line for the present.

We have adopted the present size and style of the paper pending negotiations for the purchase of a new press and other material. In the event of such purchase the paper will be made a seven-column folio.

We solicit your subscription; and just here let us remind you, gently, that it takes a little money as well as brains to run a newspaper.

Admiral Dewey declines to write magazine articles, believing evidently that the pen is not so mighty as the eight-inch shell.

The President is said to be considering the advisability of sending a commission to the Philippines to investigate conditions there.

## UNCLE SAM TALKS.

The Clarksville (Tex.) Times is responsible for the following speech delivered by Uncle Sam on the 4th of July, 1898:

"Ladies and gentlemen," said Uncle Sam, clearing his throat, "I trust that on this most glorious fourth of July you will pardon any seeming boasting on my part. I do not expect to make a speech to-day, but as I have some few facts and figures at hand I shall endeavor to give you a few pointers that will, I trust if not entertain, at least interest you.

"When—ahem—the fourth of July was first invented I was in very delicate health and many of my friends feared that I would not live until the next one. In addition to my wretched health my poverty was most appalling. My real estate consisted of a fringe of territory along the Atlantic coast, and even that was in litigation. As for money I had none. I gave my note for whatever supplies I couldn't do without and notes soon became more plentiful than precious.

"For seven years I litigated with one John Bull and at length acquired a clean title to 13 colonies, which I immediately combined and called the United States of America. It was quite a big name for a small property, but by careful management I soon began to expand my possessions. In fact, I grew very rapidly and was doing splendidly when, in 1812, I was forced into litigation with that same fellow Bull. It didn't last long, however, and we compromised in my favor.

"For forty-five years I grew like Johah's gourd. In 1860 I got into a very costly dispute with some relatives of mine who were about to—ahem—divide my property whether I consented or not. They came in an ace of making off with my garden spot, but I argued with them four years, and, though their arguments were the warmest I have ever had to meet, I finally prevailed upon them to withdraw their claims. From that time until 1898 I had no trouble. But in the year mentioned I was insulted by Spain, a peninsular kingdom across the ocean. I promptly ducked Spain in the deep, damp sea, and retained such of her possessions as I liked as pay for my trouble. In fact, I added Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippine islands and some other smaller change to my map and since then have been improving the property.

"At this moment I am champion land monopolist of the universe, and my share of the gulf stream would irrigate a planet. While my sunburned boys are harvesting bananas at Porto Rico their fur-clothed brothers of Point Barrow are

harpooning icebergs. While my nimble fingered maidens at Manila are weaving straw braids into headgear my sturdy men of Maine are ripping saw logs into lumber. From the Arctic ocean to the Antilles and from Penobscot to the Philippines I am the whole thing. My coat-tails flutter over ten million square miles and the four winds of heaven have their headquarters in my whiskers. I'm the moonhawk of the mountains and the star-spangled terror of the seas. In short, I'm the coupling pin of the continent and a red hot huckleberry from the headwaters of the hemisphere."

And the band played "Dixie."

## Within Range.

From Tid-Bits.

"How did this happen?" asked the surgeon as he dressed the wound in the cheek and applied a soothing poultice to the damaged eye. "Got hit with a stone," replied the patient. "Who threw it?" "My—my wife," was the reluctant answer. "Hum! It's the first time I've heard of a woman hitting anything she aimed at," muttered the surgeon. "She was throwing at the neighbor's hens," explained the sufferer. "I was behind her."

## THE R. R. COMMISSION.

BILL INTRODUCED TO ELECT IT BY THE PEOPLE.

### Chairmen of House Committees.

On Monday a bill was introduced by Senator Smith providing for the election of railroad commissioners by the people. The bill provides that the railroad commission shall be elected in the same manner and at the same time as members of the General Assembly with terms one for two years, one for four years and one for six years, in case of vacancy the Governor shall appoint and his appointee to hold until the qualification of his successor.

The chairmen of House committees are: Enrolled bills Olives, federal relations Gilliam, health Reeves, oysters Davis of Hyde, immigration Noble, internal improvements Moore, mechanics and mining Clarkson, salaries and fees Council, pensions Thompson of Onslow, fish interests Leigh, public roads and turnpikes Carraway, institution for deaf mutes Patterson of Robeson, counties, cities and towns Gattis, corporations Justice, constitutional amendments Rountree, penal institution Foushee, election laws Stubbs, education Craig, banks and banking Leak, appropriations Abbott, agriculture Patterson of Caldwell.

Remember you can get all kinds of Legal Blanks at THE NEWS office.

## Telling Them of Tampa.

Weary months I've spent in Tampa, where the luscious hard-tack grows;

'Tis a wondrous fruit, dear sister, which fact every soldier knows.

And it grows—please pass the butter—grows in Tampa, as I said—

Sister! just a few potatoes! Mother, won't you pass the bread!

There's another curious product of that most peculiar land;

'Tis the pig tree, where the pork blooms—Mother! this steak's just grand!

And this pig tree—Mother! say, this home-made pickle's all O K!

Tell you all about our camp life? Certainly—please pass the bread!

Well, we got up in the morning and at night we went to bed.

Then, sometimes, we—Sister! help me to another piece of steak!

Yes, and then, again, we—Mother! what fine gravy you can make!

Did we have good meals at Tampa? Yes indeed—in a horn!

Best the land afforded—Sister! give me one more ear of corn!

Meals down there were so delightful that I—Mother! pour the tea!

So delightful that—Say, Sister! is that succotash I see?

Well, as I was saying, camp life is—Say, Sister! pass the slaw!

Camp life is—Say, Mother! just a bit more steak—er—medium raw!

But to go back to camp life—Will I have some chicken salad, say!

Will I? Well, you try me! Sister! won't you pass the bread this way?

Down at Tampa?—What's that, Mother? Did I hear you mention pie?

Ice cream, too! This must be heaven in the sky!

Down to Tampa—easy, Mother! just two lumps is all I take!

Down at—O! confound old Tampa. Sister! won't you pass the cake!

—Selected.